



ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS or secondhand smoke) is smoke from the burning end of a cigarette/cigar/pipe and exhaled smoke. Passive smoking is that which is breathed when in an area where smoking is occurring.

Secondhand smoke is a Class A carcinogen known to cause cancer in humans, with *no safe level of exposure*.

(EPA, 1992)

Secondhand smoke causes 53,000 deaths per year in the United States.

(New England Journal of Medicine, 1994)

More than 4,000 chemicals, 43 of which cause cancer, are in tobacco smoke, including: nicotine, formaldehyde, cyanide, arsenic, benzene and carbon monoxide.

(Surgeon General's Report, 1989)

ETS contains much higher amounts of toxic and cancer-causing chemicals. For example, carbon monoxide is 2.5 times more in secondhand smoke than what the smoker inhales.

(Glantz, AHA Circulation, 1991)

Smoke filled rooms can have up to six times the air pollution as a busy highway.

(Centers for Disease Control, 1993)

It takes about two weeks for nicotine to clear from a room where smoking has occurred.

(Repace/Lowrey, Environmental Journal, 1986:11)

Secondhand smoke is responsible for up to 300,000 serious breathing illnesses each year in infants and children.

(EPA, 1993)

Respiratory ailments caused by secondhand smoke result in up to 15,000 children being hospitalized annually.

(EPA, 1993)

Secondhand smoke contributes to asthma, and children are more likely to become asthmatic when smokers live in their households.

(EPA, 1993)

Nonsmokers exposed to ETS have more eye irritation and respiratory problems.

(Surgeon General's Report, 1989)

Nonsmokers who live with smokers have a 20% to 30% higher risk of dying from heart disease and also have an increased risk of lung cancer.

(Surgeon General's Report, 1989)

The risk of lung cancer for nonsmokers who grew up with smoking parents is double that of nonsmoking adults who grew up with nonsmokers.

(New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 323, 1990)